IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	
Kentaro SHIOMI , et al.	:	
Serial No.:	:	Group Art Unit:
Filed: February 09, 2001	:	Examiner:
For: LSI DESIGN METHOD AND VERIFICATION METHOD	:	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 17 to read as follows:

17. The method according to claim 11, wherein the limitation includes at least one of: discontinuing the simulation, reducing a simulation execution, speed, and executing the simulation in an abnormal manner; outputting no simulation result; and producing no data or key to be passed to a following step.

Please add claim 23 as follows:

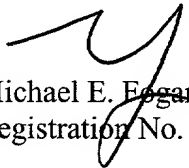--23. The method according to claim 14, wherein the limitation includes at least one of:

discontinuing the simulation, reducing a simulation execution, speed, and executing the simulation in an abnormal manner; outputting no simulation result; and producing no data or key to be passed to a following step.--

REMARKS

The above-referenced application is amended to delete the multiple dependency of claim 17 to avoid the multiple dependent claim filing fee and to add claim 23. Attached is a Marked-Up Version of the claims as amended. Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

17.   The method according to claim 11 [or 14], wherein the limitation includes at least one of: discontinuing the simulation, reducing a simulation execution, speed, and executing the simulation in an abnormal manner; outputting no simulation result; and producing no data or key to be passed to a following step.

23.   The method according to claim 14, wherein the limitation includes at least one of: discontinuing the simulation, reducing a simulation execution, speed, and executing the simulation in an abnormal manner; outputting no simulation result; and producing no data or key to be passed to a following step.